NEWPOLITICAL



Voters' Guide

2014

NEWPOLITICAL

FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Reader,

To us, political news isn't just elections, political scandals, and political debates; it's about what affects you on election day and every other day of the year.

The New Political aims to foster conversations about these issues. We want to provide in-depth insight into the effects of political issues by pushing past the jargon and bureaucratic nonsense. We want to give our readers and viewers the facts in an understandable way, without the commentary that so often accompanies political conversations.

By being a completely independent, non-biased news sources in Athens, Ohio, we are able to accomplish that. We know that we want the facts, and we believe you do too.

Voting is essential to democracy, but informed voting is essential to a functional democracy. We want to do our part by merely providing the information and then letting you be the one who decides. So we have worked to compile information for voters in Athens about the candidates and issues you'll be seeing on the ballot.

As you turn through the pages, think about what political and social issues matter most to you, and find out how to vote in your best interests on Nov. 4.

Best Regards,

Jaelynn Grisso Editor-In-Chief

Maren Machles Managing Editor





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Jaelynn Grisso Editor-in-Chief

Maren Machles Managing Editor

Spencer CappelliCampus Editor

Alexandra NewmanCity Editor

Olivia Miltner State Editor

Olivia Bower Copy Chief

Kaleb Carter Social Media Director

Robert Grimm Webmaster

Catie Peterson Graphic Designer

CONTRIBUTORS

Alexandra NewmanCity Editor

Christian PowerCity Staff

Olivia Miltner State Editor

Luke Torrence State Staff

Catie Peterson Graphic Designer



ATHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

What's the Job?

County commissioners are responsible for attracting jobs and leading workforce development, specifically by bringing new businesses to Athens and keeping established businesses here. They are in charge of welfare reform and helping the county reach state-set benchmarks for moving unemployed residents into jobs. Environmental protection is also a big responsibility of the county commissioners. They are heavily involved in such diverse efforts as industrial site cleanup, consumer recycling and ensuring safe drinking water.

Lenny Eliason 🔚





He is running for reelection and has been an Athens County Commissioner since August 1998. Eliason serves on many different committees, including the Buckeye Hills Hocking Valley Regional Development Executive Committee. He is a board member of HAPCAP Community Action Board as well. Prior to elected office, he had a 20-year career in the broadcasting industry in various markets in Ohio including 10 years as a station owner. He earned a Master of Public Administration Degree from Ohio University in 2002. He is trained as a public sector dispute resolution mediator and also serves as a Mediator for the Athens Area Mediation Service.

ATHENS COUNTY AUDITOR

What's the Job?

Among the county auditor's responsibilities are accounting for financial records, maintaining the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for digital mapping and regulating weights and measures sales -- which is why the auditor's name is visible at places like gas pumps. Additionally, the county auditor regulates pet licensing.



Challenger Kathy Hecht

THE ATHENS MESSAGER

Kathy Hecht 😘 🧲





Kathy Hecht is currently serving as Athens City Auditor, a position she has held since 2004. Hecht graduated from Indiana University with a degree in criminal justice in 1979, moving to the









Challenger

Athens community shortly after. Prior to assuming her current role, Hecht served on the Athens City Council for two years. Outside of the Auditor's Office, Hecht has attended numerous conferences and was president of the Municipal Finance Officers Association of Ohio.



Current Athens County Auditor Jill Thompson

Jill Thompson 📵 🌘





Jill Thompson is the incumbent candidate for Athens County Auditor, currently serving her fourth term. She was appointed to the position in October 2000 and was re-elected in 2002, 2006 and 2010. Thompson graduated from Ohio University in 1992 and has been involved in local government since. She has been active with organizations such as the County Auditors' Association of Ohio, Auditor of State Regional Advisory Council and the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce. Thompson has developed an appreciation for government transparency and accountability through her experience with these organizations.

JUDGE COURT OF **APPEALS FULL**

Term Commencing 2/9/15

Peter B. Abele 📵 🧶





Peter Abele is running for re-election for his current position, which expires in February. Originally elected in 1990, he was re-elected to six-year terms in 1996, 2002, and 2008. Abele received his bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University and his J.D. from

Capital University Law School. He has served as Assistant Vinton County Prosecutor (1982-1985); Athens City Prosecutor (1985-1988); and Referee in the Athens County Common Pleas Court (1988-1991). In addition to serving in the Fourth District, Judge Abele has served by appointment to the Ohio Supreme Court on various occasions.

JUDGE COURT OF **COMMON PLEAS GENERAL DIVISION FULL**

Term Commencing 2/9/15

Patrick Lang 🔚 🛑





Patrick Lang is currently the Athens City Law Director. Lang is running for the position currently held by Judge L. Alan Goldsberry (D) who is set to retire in February. A graduate of Ohio University and the University of Cincinnati College of Law, Lang was elected to his current position in 2007. He previously served as 2nd Ward Athens City Council member in 1998 and held a position in the Athens County Prosecutor's Office in 2004.

JUDGE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS GENERAL DIVISION

Unexpired Term Ending 12-31-16



Challenger Herman A. Carson.

THE ATHENS MESSENGER

Herman A. Carson 🔚





Herman Carson is running for election against incumbent judge George McCarthy. Carson received his undergraduate degree from Ohio Northern University and his J.D. from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. He has worked as an attorney in private practice in Athens since 1980 and served as an acting judge for the Athens County Municipal Court for 22 years.



THE ATHENS MESSENGER Current Common Pleas Judge George McCarthy

George P. McCarthy



George McCarthy is running for retention election, an election specific to judges, for the position. He was appointed by Gov. John Kasich to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of former judge Michael Ward. McCarthy assumed the office in May 2013 and must run again to serve the remainder of Ward's unexpired term, which ends in December 2016. McCarthy received his undergraduate degree from the University of New Hampshire and his J.D. from Ohio Northern University. He has previously served as a city attorney for the City of Athens, Assistant Prosecutor for Meigs County and a private attorney.

JUDGE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PROBATE/JUVENILE DIVISION

Full Term 2/9/15

Robert W. Stewart 📵 🌘





Robert Stewart is running for re-election after being elected in November 2002 to a sixyear term beginning on Feb. 8, 2003. Stewart received his undergraduate degree from Ohio University and his J.D. from the University of Toledo. Before becoming a judge, Stewart worked as an attorney in private practice in Athens County for more than 25 years. He has also served as a magistrate for the Athens County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Divisions since 1980 and was a prosecutor and attorney for the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General (IAG).









Incumbent



Governor

By Luke Torrance

There's a crisp chill in the air, the trees around Athens display beautiful colors of red, orange, and yellow, and citizens across the state watch television in fear of the horror that is campaign advertising.

Yes, it is election season in the Buckeye state, and this November voters will decide who will helm Ohio for the coming four years. Will incumbent governor John Kasich earn an additional four years in Columbus? Or will Ed FitzGerald or Anita Rios become the 70th chief executive?

> This is The New Political's guide to Ohio's 2014 gubernatorial race.



Governor John Kasich

JOHN KASICH 🛑 (





John Kasich narrowly edged out incumbent Democrat Ted Strickland back in 2010 but looks to have a tighter grasp on the race this time around. It has helped that his main opponent, Ed FitzGerald, has completely self-destructed. But it is also an indication that many Ohio voters agree with the policies that Kasich has implemented.

Namely, in regards to the economy. Upon taking over in 2011, Kasich quickly went about eliminating the budget's \$8 billion deficit and balancing the budget. Rather than raise taxes, Kasich instead lowered government spending. He has continued to cut taxes over the course of his tenure, although critics say that these cuts are aimed at the wealthy.

The reduced spending has not been entirely popular, especially for residents, such as teachers and policemen, who depend on state money. Even more, his relationship with labor groups, public and private, has been strained to say the least. His restrictive new collective bargaining law was roundly defeated in a 2011 voter referendum, but Kasich continues to champion right-to-work, which weakens unions in an attempt to loosen their grip on their respective employers.

Funding for education saw cuts at all levels, some drastic, which has drawn the ire of many. The 2014 state budget increased spending in education, including more than \$32 million for pre-K,

Fast Facts About John Kasich

- · Focused on balancing the budget during his administration
- Champions right-to-work
- Cut education funding at all levels
- Embraced Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. "Obamacare"

although it is still lower than funding during the Strickland administration.

Unlike some of his Republican peers, Kasich had no problem embracing the Affordable Care Act, or "Obamacare" as many in the GOP refer to it. Kasich has fought to take advantage of the program in order to fund an increase in Medicaid spending.

On most other issues, however, Kasich has fallen in line with his party. He is against abortion except in cases of rape or emergency. He opposes the legalization of marijuana for medical or recreational use. He opposes same-sex marriage. He has consistently sided with gas companies over the fracking issue and pushed to allow drilling in state parks.



Challenger Ed Fitzgerald

ED FITZGERALD 😁





Unless you've been living in a cabin in the backwoods of Ohio, you have probably heard of Democratic nominee Ed FitzGerald's struggles. The Washington Post called his campaign a "remarkable explosion" while The New York Times said the













Challenger

Fast Facts About Ed FitzGerald

- Found in a scandal about driving without a license.
- Supports legalization of medical marijuana
- · Wants to increase spending for schools
- Aims to raise funds for local governments
- Intends to expand Medicaid funding

Democrats were in danger of a "disastrous shutout."

Democrats were optimistic when Kasich's approval ratings dipped below 50 percent in early 2014. They hoped that if FitzGerald pummeled Kasich on his unpopular policies, the Democrats could reclaim Ohio. But now it looks unlikely that FitzGerald will even debate Kasich, as the governor's lead is so large that there is no benefit for him to participate in the debates.

Between the beginning of the year and the present, FitzGerald got into a bit of trouble for past offenses. Over the summer it was revealed that police had found FitzGerald in 2012 in a car with a woman who was not his wife. FitzGerald denied anything inappropriate, but he slipped in the polls. That drop grew even more precipitously when it was also revealed that FitzGerald, a former FBI agent, had driven from 2002 to 2012 without a valid driver's license.

FitzGerald recently tried to shake things up by stating his support for the legalization of medical marijuana. Otherwise, his stance on the other social issues stays in line with the Democratic platform. He supports same-sex marriage, women's rights to have an abortion and raising the minimum wage.

Like all political challengers, he maintains that Kasich has not done enough. FitzGerald wants to increase spending for schools, including pre-K education, and wants to create a universal college savings program for each Ohio child that expands on the program he created in Cuyahoga County. He has said that Ohio should raise funding for local governments that have been squeezed by the Kasich administration. Although Kasich has taken advantage of the Affordable Care Act to some extent, FitzGerald wants more Medicaid funding and claimed that Kasich was not taking advantage of the financial funding opportunities that the act provided.

As for environmental issues, FitzGerald still believes that gas companies can provide needed jobs

and money to the state but adds that more oversight is needed for the drilling of natural gas, particularly the disposal of wastewater.



Challenger Anita Rios

LUCAS COUNTY GREENS

ANITA RIOS 🥏 🚭

Seeing as many third parties do not play a role in major elections, Anita Rios and the Green Party have a steep uphill battle to challenge the incumbent Kasich. However, given the disillusionment that many Ohio liberals feel towards FitzGerald, Rios has a shot to pass him in the polls and perhaps win her party some support going forward.

Considering the Green Party received just one percent of the vote in the 2010 election, just getting a seat at the debate is a step forward. On Oct. 22, Rios debated FitzGerald in Cleveland, without Kasich.

The Green Party — and Rios by extension — is a progressive party to the left of the mainstream Democratic Party. Rios says that she will not execute any prisoners and will halt what she calls the "school to prison pipeline"— the belief that disadvantaged children in the United States are pushed out of school by the government and into the justice system. She wants to reimplement the estate tax, which was repealed by Kasich and eliminate subsidies for utility providers. She would like to increase school funding on all levels and would like to remove all of the state schools' presidents because they "have gotten fat on the debt of the students."

The Green Party is a strong advocate for environmental protection, and Rios is no different. Rios says that she would put in place restrictions on agricultural runoff and fertilizer use. She is strongly against fracking and would ban it across the state.

Fast Facts About Anita Rios

- Against the death penalty
- Intends to halt the "school to prison pipeline"
- · Wants to increase spending for schools
- Strong advocate for increased environmental protection

Instead, she would like Ohio to be at the forefront of renewable energy, which she believes will create jobs.

As for her stand on social issues, she is prochoice, in favor of same-sex marriage and a strong advocate for legalizing marijuana, for medical and recreational use.

THE DEBATE

Two candidates in the Ohio 2014 gubernatorial race met for a debate Wednesday night at the City Club of Cleveland. One was Ed FitzGerald, the Democratic nominee for governor, and the other was his opponent Anita Rios of the Green Party.

The elephant in the room was the lack of an elephant in the room. Republican nominee and incumbent governor John Kasich was not in attendance last night; Kasich declined to participate because he felt he had "already explained the stuff (he had) to explain" according to the Cleveland Plain-Dealer. It was the first time Ohio's gubernatorial race did not have a Republican-Democrat debate since 1978.

Despite Kasich's absence, the governor was on the minds of both the people asking the questions and the two answering them. FitzGerald and Rios spent little time on each other, instead aiming most of the vitriol at the man who wasn't there.

Both addressed Kasich during opening statements.

"It's a sad commentary on the state of politics that the governor is not with us here tonight," Rios said to open the debate.

"The stature of this location makes it even

more startling that Governor Kasich has refused to participate," FitzGerald added.

Although the candidates did not see eye-to-eye on all the issues, they chose to focus on their shared differences from Kasich. When FitzGerald was asked about his character, specifically his license lapse and a 4:30 a.m. run-in with a police officer while he was in his car with a woman who was not his wife, Rios said, "Shame on the media for focusing on that," which drew loud cheers and applause from the audience, according to Henry Gomez of the Cleveland Plain-Dealer.

For Rios, the debate was instead an opportunity to discuss the Green Party's policies. She said she would like to bring back the estate tax and advocated for more transparency in government. She also asserted that if she were elected governor, she would divert half her salary to internships within the state government.

For FitzGerald, the debate was one more opportunity to criticize Kasich, and he often turned his answers into how the governor has failed Ohioans.

Such fierce debate with a non-existent person had not been seen since the infamous Clint Eastwood-Chair incident of 2012, and like Eastwood and his Republicans in that presidential election, FitzGerald finds himself facing a steep climb.

Polls show that Kasich maintains a massive lead, and it's unlikely anything FitzGerald said or could have said at the debate would have put much of a dent in the governor's lead.

However, FitzGerald showed no signs of throwing in the towel, and he downplayed his license troubles. He even turned on moderator Robert Higgs of the Northeast Ohio Media Group, saying that they found FitzGerald's personal troubles "much more interesting" than looking into Kasich's time working at Lehman Brothers, which famously imploded during the 2008 financial crisis due to shady business practices.

"If the worst thing they can say is that I was careless about a driver's license and let it expire, then so be it," FitzGerald said. "That's the way that life goes, and that's the way that politics is sometimes."

Key







Republican





Incumbent



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

What's the Job?

The lieutenant governor presides over the Ohio Senate, will become governor if the current governor dies, and holds other responsibilities as assigned by the governor.



Current Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor





Mary Taylor, incumbent lieutenant governor, is Gov. John Kasich's running mate. She has served in the position since 2010. While in office, Taylor led Ohio's Common Sense Initiative, a group dedicated to creating regulations that are more business-friendly. She also was the director of the Department of Insurance and continues to champion policies that foster job and business growth by giving small businesses and Ohioans tax cuts.



DAYTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

Lieutenant Governor Challenger Sharen Neuhardt

Sharen Neuhardt 🦙 (





Sharon Neuhardt is the Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor running with Ed FitzGerald. She comes from a business law background, previously working with a Dayton law firm and serving as general counsel at Lexis-Nexis. Neuhardt is a firm proponent of women's health and served on the Miami Valley Planned Parenthood Board of Trustees from 1995-2002. She also wants to encourage public-private partnerships, which are collaborations between government entities and private businesses.



GREEN PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

Lieutenant Governor Challenger Bob Fitrakis





Bob Fitrakis is running with gubernatorial candidate Anita Rios of the Green Party. Fitrakis has been heavily involved with election activism since the 90s when he co-wrote and edited the United Nations election report on the 1994 El Salvador election. In 2004, he filed a challenge to Ohio's presidential election results after alleged voter suppression and irregularities. Currently, he is a political science professor at Columbus State Community College and is focused on election reform, opposing recent early voting limitations.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

What's the Job?

The attorney general is the chief law officer in Ohio. He or she is responsible for representing the state in civil and criminal cases and any other cases in which the state holds a direct interest.



Current State Attorney General Mike DeWine

Mike DeWine





Mike DeWine is the incumbent Republican candidate for attorney general and he has received mixed reactions surrounding his involvement of hot-button issues like abortion and voting rights since he was elected to the position in 2010. DeWine was recently endorsed by the Cleveland Plain Dealer partly because of his push for proactively processing rape kits by decreasing the turnaround time by more than 100

days, although many say he has not been doing enough. However, he has also received scathing reviews after he co-authored a brief against birth control in the Hobby Lobby court case and appealed a federal ruling mandating Ohio had to acknowledge out-of-state same-sex marriages.



TWITTER USER @DAVIDPEPPER

Attorney General Challenger David Pepper

David Pepper





The Democratic candidate for attorney general is David Pepper. He has encouraged DeWine to stop preventing Ohio's recognition of out-of-state same-sex marriages and also advocates for redistricting reform and voting rights. In addition, he wants to modernize the Attorney General's Office to better combat cyber-bullying. However, he has paid \$10,000 over the past 14 years to pay off more than 180 parking tickets.

STATE AUDITOR

What's the Job?

The state auditor audits all governmental agencies, as well as any private institution that has been given public money.











Incumbent



Current State Auditor John Patrick Carney

John Patrick Carney 🔚 🜑





Democrat John Patrick Carney is currently a member of the Ohio House of Representatives but is running for state auditor in this November's election. He is focused on government transparency and economic development. He supports programs like Ohio Third Frontier, which invests in technology-based economic development.



Dave Yost 📵 🗶





Former Delaware County Prosecutor Dave Yost is the incumbent Republican candidate for state auditor. He has worked to make government more efficient and avoid duplication of services and waste. Yost has also cautioned Ohioans about JobsOhio, a controversial program designed to bring businesses into Ohio, after a bill blocked his ability to audit the program.



State Auditor challenger Bob Bridges

Bob Bridges





Bob Bridges is the Libertarian candidate State Auditor. He, in congruity with the message of his party, believes in less government and greater personal freedom. To this end, he believes the state auditor should be more focused on theft and crime than burdening small businesses. He also believes Ohioans should have lower taxes.

SECRETARY OF STATE

What's the Job?

The Ohio secretary of state appoints members to the board of elections and oversees the state's elections.



Current Secretary of State Jon Husted

Jon Husted 🥮 🌑





Jon Husted is running for re-election as secretary of state after winning the position in 2010. He has received praise and criticism for recent early

voting restrictions that cut early voting days and times, arguing the state needed more uniform voting measures as a means to help combat cheating. He has also created an online business filing system meant to make starting a business in Ohio easier.



Secretary of State challenger Nina Turner

Nina Turner 🔚 🚮



In contrast to Husted, Democratic candidate for Secretary of State Nina Turner wants to expand early voting in order to maximize accessibility. She also is a proponent of women's healthcare freedom and opposed Senate Bill 5, which limited collective bargaining rights for unionized public employees. She currently serves in the Ohio Senate and is a history professor at Cuyahoga Community College.



Secretary of State challenger Kevin Knedler

Kevin Knedler







Kevin Knedler is a third-party libertarian candidate who lives in rural Delaware County. If elected, Knedler wants to increase poll access to Ohioans by increasing evening and weekend voting hours, reduce restrictions for independent third-party candidates to participate in elections, and add an independent to the County Board of Elections. In addition, he supports an amendment to the Ohio Constitution eliminating gerrymandering, a practice politicians use to manipulate district boundaries to favor one party over another.

TREASURER

What's the Job?

The state treasurer oversees safekeeping and investing state funds.



Treasurer challenger Connie Pillich

Connie Pillich 😘 🥋





Connie Pillich is challenging incumbent Josh Mandel in Ohio's treasurer race. She describes herself as a "bi-partisan problem solver" on her website, claiming "76 percent of the bills she sponsored in the General Assembly received bipartisan support." She also brings the experience of a small business owner to the candidacy.















Incumbent



Current Treasurer Josh Mandell

Josh Mandel



Josh Mandel is the current Ohio treasurer. He has strived to increase transparency by making state salaries public and has said he would eventually like to put the state's entire checkbook online. However, he received an immense amount of scrutiny this summer after Ben Suarez, a businessman from North Canton, was accused of illegally sending money to Mandel's campaign. He was eventually acquitted, and Mandel was never charged.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 06

Where in Ohio?

District 06 runs along the eastern border of Ohio, containing Lawrence County, the southeastern corner of Athens County and up through Columbiana.



District six challenger Dennis Lambert

Dennis Lambert





Dennis Lambert is running with the Green Party for District 6 in the U.S. House of Representatives. Lambert does not take any corporate donations for his campaign and his platform has three components: employment, veterans and environment. Building off of these, Lambert describes his support of a higher minimum wage, an overhaul of the Veteran Affairs Benefits systems and an end to government subsidies to oil, gas and dirty coal industries.



District six challenger Jennifer Garrison

Jennifer Garrison 🛜





Jennifer Garrison is a Democratic candidate, although her policies break in some respects from her party's platform. She supports unions and advocates for raising the minimum wage. However, she also supports the Keystone XL Pipeline, clean coal, development of Utica and Marcellus shale and second amendment rights, differing from her party. In addition, Garrison has focused on education, supporting public education and striving to create a fairer funding system for public schools.



Current district six representative Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson 🥮 🌘





Republican Bill Johnson is the incumbent candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives District 6 race. He was elected to the House in 2010 and won reelection in 2012 and, in contrast to Jennifer Garrison, largely follows party lines. Johnson supports less regulations for businesses, a flat tax and energy independence, which includes the development of both renewable energy and the development of shale and coal. He is pro-life, supports the second amendment and opposes federal control of education like Common Core standards.

District 15

Where in Ohio?

District 15 runs from Clinton County through parts of Franklin County and down through most of Athens.



Current district 15 representative Steve Stivers

Steve Stivers





Incumbent candidate Steve Stivers has served the last four years as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He follows the Republican platform closely, supporting spending cuts and energy independence. He would also like to repeal the Affordable Care Act, reform Medicare to make the program more sustainable, and approve a federal balanced budget amendment.



District 15 challenger Scott Wharton

Scott Wharton





Scott Wharton is Steve Stivers' Democratic challenger for the U.S. House. He is currently a pilot and self-taught farmer with a military background. Wharton supports creating trade policies with other nations that take into account labor practices and currency manipulation, verifying the equal rights amendment and fixing, rather than repealing, the Affordable Care Act.

STATE BOARD OF **EDUCATION**

District 8

What's the Job?

The state board of education helps develop policies that affect public schools across Ohio, including financial reporting, instruction and administrative responsibilities.

Where in Ohio?

District 8 in the State Board of Education election runs along the eastern border of Ohio from Meigs to Mahoning counties.







Independent









Challenger



District eight challenger Kathleen Purdy

Kathleen Purdy 😘 🕵





Kathleen Purdy is a Democrat from Alliance, Ohio, and was a Plain Local Schools teacher and the president of the East Central Ohio Education Association. Her goals include cutting school district costs by addressing unfunded state mandates and supporting systems for unwed fathers to help them contribute to child support. Purdy also supports federal education mandates and universal healthcare.



District eight challenger Robert Hagan

THE OHIO CITIZEN

Robert F. Hagan 🦣 🦪





Bob F. Hagan is another Democrat running for the District 8 State Board of Education. He wants to reform state practices regarding charter schools, including increasing charter school record transparency and scrutiny. Hagan is currently a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, but his term concludes at the end of December and he is not eligible for re-election.



District eight challenger Ida Ross-Freeman

Ida Ross-Freeman





Ida Ross-Freeman is an Independent running for the District 8 State Board of Education. She, like Hagan and Purdy, supports public education. Ross-Freeman wants to stem the growth of charter schools and, while she said the Common Core might have good intentions, is hesitant to support it because of its uniform requirements.

OHIO SUPREME COURT



Current Judge Shar

Sharon Kennedy 📵 🔘





Republican Sharon Kennedy has served on the Ohio Supreme Court since 2012 after she was elected to fill an unexpired term. The American Bar Association decided to "not recommend" her during the 2012 election, and she did not participate in the rating process this year. Kennedy believes that requiring businesses or religious organizations to provide services to LGBT people is unconstitutional.



Challenger Tom Letson

THE TOLEDO BLADE

Tom Letson 🔚



Tom Letson is the Democratic challenger to Sharon Kennedy for the Ohio Supreme Court. He received a "not recommended" ruling from the Ohio State Bar Association and is currently a member of the Ohio House of Representatives who is ineligible for another term. He practiced

law for 25 years and has a history of tax troubles.



Current Judge Judi French

Judi French 📵 🜘





Judi French is a Republican from Columbus who describes herself as a "conservative judge." She started her term in 2013 and has received a "highly recommended" rating from the Ohio State Bar Association for this year's election. She has also been endorsed by Ohio Right to Life, Ohio State Medical Association and the Buckeye Firearms Association.



Challenger John O'Donnell

ERIE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

John O'Donnell 📆 🌄





Democrat John O'Donnell is a Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge running against Judi French. O'Donnell wants to be an "independent voice" on the Ohio Supreme Court, which is largely conservative, and has been responsible for civil lawsuits, a felony criminal docket and over 2,000 commercial cases. He has been endorsed by the Cleveland Plain Dealer and the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Key

















CITY & STATE-

ALL 56 PRECINCTS IN THE COUNTY OF ATHENS

Tax Issues

Tax levies are taxes added to or renewing current property taxes. The amount of taxes paid is based on "each one hundred dollars of valuation," based the assessed value of the property as determined by a formula from the Ohio Department of Taxation. Typically, the first tax for the levy will be due the first calendar year after the tax commences.

Issue 1



A renewal of a tax for the purpose of operating a tuberculosis clinic for care and treatment of tubercular residents, amounting to 3 cents. Commencing in 2015, the tax would be applied for five years, with the first tax due the following calendar year.

Issue 2



County Public Libraries

Issue 2 concerns an additional tax of 10 cents for every one hundred dollars of the assessed value of the property. The tax is designed to offset some of the current expenses of the library..., The tax will be applied for 5 years, commencing in 2014.

Issue 4



Issue 4 involves renewing a property tax which provides or maintains services or facilities for senior citizens. The tax is 2.5 cents and will begin in 2014.

Issue 5 🚍



A tax for the operation and maintenance of emergency medical vehicles is up for a vote on Issue 5. The replacement tax is designed to increase the amount from the previous tax. The tax is 10 cents and starts in 2015.

Issue 6 🗬



The Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities also has a 15-cent tax levy on the ballot. The tax, commencing in 2014, is for the maintenance and operation of programs and services.

Issue 7

21 Precincts

A proposed ban on hydraulic fracturing and related procedures within Athens city limits, developed by local activists such as Dick McGinn in the Athens Bill of Rights Committee, who described the effort as "...a tribute to our democracy." This will be the first time voters have the opportunity to decide on this issue, as previous attempts to put it on the ballot were unsuccessful.

Issue 8

City of Athens

Issue 8 concerns a municipal income tax increase of 10 cents for the Arts, Parks and Recreation Department, specifically for the construction of a swimming pool. The funds will also be used for maintenance, property acquisition, equipment and furnishing; accessibility to all playgrounds, trails and facilities; and operation and staffing. This will last for 20 years, effective 2016.

Issue 9 Special Election by Petition

Local Option Election, Athens Precinct 3-4

Issue 9 is a special issue to decide if Nelsonville Grocery, Inc., doing business as Busy Day Market, a carry-out/grocery store at 30 W. Stimson Ave., can sell wine and mixed beverages on Sunday between the hours of 10 a.m. and midnight. They are currently an applicant for a D-6 liquor permit.

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